GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:456
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
CONCESSIONS TO PAKISTAN UNDER SAFTA
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given Most Favoured Nation status and various other concessions to Pakistan under South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA);

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has also reciprocated;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to review the concessions given to Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) & (c) Pakistan has not yet granted MFN status to India and has cited extraneous political, economic and other reasons for it. While India has extended tariff concessions under the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) to Pakistan for all items excluding the items in India's Sensitive List, Pakistan has extended SAFTA concessions to India only for the items included in their list of items importable from India called Positive List.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.